

PRO

Be thou my aid, my tuneful song inspire,
And kindle, with thy own productive fire. *Dryden.*
If the productive fat of the mail be spent, it is not capable
of being mended with new. *Mortimer.*
Numbers of Scots are glad to exchange their barren hills
for our fruitful vales to productive of that grain. *Swift.*
Hymen's flames like stars unite,
And burn for ever one;
Chaste as cold Cynthia's virgin light,
Productive as the sun. *Pope.*
Plutarch, in his life of Theseus, says, that, that age was
productive of men of prodigious stature. *Boome.*
PRO'EM. *n. f.* [πρόομιον; proemium, Lat. proeme, old Fr.]
Preface; introduction. *Milton.*
So glaz'd the tempter, and his proem tun'd.
Thus much may serve by way of proem,
Proceed we therefore to our poem. *Swift's Miscel.*
Justinian has, in the proem to the digests, only prefixed
the term of five years for studying the laws. *Ascham.*
PROFANA'TION. *n. f.* [profanation, Fr. from profano, Lat.]
1. The act of violating any thing sacred.
He knew how bold men are to take even from God him-
self; how hardly that house would be kept from impious pro-
fanation he knew. *Hooker, b. v. f. 12.*
What I am and what I would, are to your ears, divinity;
to any others, profanation. *Shakespeare Twelfth Night.*
'Twere profanation of our joys,
To tell the laity our love. *Donne.*
All profanation and invasion of things sacred, is an offence
against the eternal law of nature. *South.*
Others think I ought not to have translated Chaucer: they
suppose a veneration due to his old language, and that it is little
less than profanation and sacrilege to alter it. *Dryden.*
2. Irreverence to holy things or persons.
Great men may jest with fables, 'tis wit in them;
But, in the less, foul profanation. *Shakespeare.*
PROFANE. *adj.* [profane, Fr. from profanus, Lat.]
1. Irreverent to sacred names or things.
Profane fellow! *Shakespeare Twelfth Night.*
Wert thou the son of Jupiter, and no more
But what thou art besides, thou wert too base
To be his groom. *Shakespeare Cymbeline.*
These have caus'd the weak to fumble, and the profane
to blaspheme, offending the one, and hardening the other. *South.*
2. Not sacred; secular.
The universality of the deluge is attested by profane history;
for the fame of it is gone through the earth, and there are
records or traditions concerning it in all the parts of this and
the new-found world. *Burnet's Theory of the Earth.*
3. Polluted; not pure.
Nothing is profane that serveth to holy things. *Raleigh.*
4. Not purified by holy rites.
Far hence be souls profane,
The Sibyl cry'd, and from the grove abstain. *Dryden.*
To PROFANE. *v. a.* [profano, Lat. profanar, Fr.]
1. To violate; to pollute.
He then, that is not furnish'd in this fort,
Doth but usurp the sacred name of knight,
Profaning this most honourable order. *Shakespeare.*
Foretasted fruit
Profan'd first by the serpent, by him first
Made common and unhallow'd. *Milton.*
Pity the temple profaned of ungodly men. *2 Mac. viii. 2.*
How far have we
Profan'd thy heav'nly gift of poetry?
Made prostitute and profligate the muse,
Debas'd. *Dryden.*
2. To put to wrong use.
I feel me much to blame. *Shakespeare.*
So idly to profane the precious time.
PROFANELY. *adv.* [from profane.] With irreverence to sacred
names or things.
I will hold my tongue no more, as touching their wicked-
ness, which they profanely commit. *2 Esdr. xv. 8.*
Let none of things serious, much less of divine,
When belly and head's full, profanely dispute. *B. Johnf.*
That proud scholar, intending to erect altars to Virgil,
speaks of Homer too profanely. *Boome's Notes on the Odyssey.*
PROFANER. *n. f.* [from profane.] Polluter; violator.
The argument which our Saviour useth against profaners of
the temple, he taketh from the use whereunto it was with so-
lemnity consecrated. *Hooker, b. v. f. 12.*
Rebellious subjects, enemies to peace,
Profaners of this neighbour stained steel. *Shakespeare.*
There are a lighter ludicrous sort of profaners, who use the
scripture to furnish out their jests. *Gov. of the Tongue.*
PROFANENESS. *n. f.* [from profane.] Irreverence of what is
sacred; wantonness. *Shakespeare.*
My great profaneness gainst thy oracle
You can banish from thence scurrility and profaneness, and
restrain the licentious insolence of poets and their actors. *Dry-*

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Edicts against immorality and profaneness, laws against
oaths and execrations, we trample upon. *Shakespeare.*
PROFECTION. *n. f.* [profectio, Lat.] Advance; progression.
This, with profectio of the horoscope, unto the seventh
house or opposite signs, every seventh year oppelleth living
natures. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*
To PROFESS. *v. a.* [professus, Fr. from professus, Lat.]
1. To declare himself in strong terms of any opinion or passion.
Would you have me speak after my custom,
As being a profess'd tyrant to their sex?
Pretending first
Wife to fly pain, professing next the spy.
A servant to thy sex, a slave to thee,
A foe profess to barren chastity. *Dryden's Knight's Tale.*
2. To make a show of any sentiments by loud declaration.
Love well your father;
To your professing bosoms I commit him. *Shakespeare.*
3. To declare publicly one's skill in any art or science, so as
to invite employment.
What, matter, read you? first resolve me that.
—I read that I profess the art of love.
Without eyes thou shalt want light; profess not the know-
ledge therefore that thou hast not. *Shakespeare.*
To PROFESS. *v. n.*
1. To declare openly.
The day almost itself professes yours,
And little is to do. *Shakespeare Macbeth.*
They profess, that they know God, but in works they
deny him. *Tit. i. 16.*
Profess unto the Lord, that I am come unto the country,
which the Lord swore unto our fathers. *Deut. xxv. 3.*
2. To declare friendship. Not in use.
As he does conceive,
He is dishonour'd by a man, which ever
Profess'd to him; why, his revenges must
In that be made more bitter. *Shakespeare.*
PROFESS'DLY. *adv.* [from profess'd.] According to open de-
claration made by himself.
I could not grant too much to men, that being profess'dly
my subjects, pretended religious strictness. *King Charles.*
Virgil, whom he profess'dly imitated, has surpassed him
among the Romans. *Dryden's Dedication to Juvenal.*
England I travelled over, profess'dly leaching all places I
pass'd along. *Woodward.*
PROFESS'ION. *n. f.* [professio, Fr. from profess.]
1. Calling; vocation; known employment.
I must tell you,
You tender more your person's honour, than
Your high profession spiritual. *Shakespeare Henry VIII.*
If we confound arts with the abuse of them, we shall con-
demn all honest trades; for there are that deceive in all pro-
fessions, and bury in forgetfulness all knowledge. *Raleigh.*
Some of our profession keep wounds tented. *Wilmot.*
No other one race, nor the sons of any one other profes-
sion, nor perhaps altogether, are so much scattered amongst
all professions, as the sons of clergymen. *Sprat's Sermon.*
This is a practice, in which multitudes, besides those of
the learned professions, may be engaged. *Watts.*
2. Declaration.
A naked profession may have credit, where no other evi-
dence can be given. *Glanville's Scyl.*
Most profligately false, with the strongest professions of sin-
cerity. *Swift.*
3. The act of declaring one's self of any party or opinion.
For by oil in their lamps, and the first lighting of them,
which was common to them both, is meant that solemn pro-
fession of faith and repentance, which all christians make in
baptism. *Tillotson's Sermon.*
When christianity came to be taken up, for the sake of
those civil encouragements which attended their profession, the
complaint was applicable to christians. *Swift.*
PROFESS'IONAL. *adj.* [from professio.] Relating to a particular
calling or profession.
Profess'ional, as well as national, reflections are to be
avoided. *Clarissa.*
PROFESS'OR. *n. f.* [professor, Fr. from profess.]
1. One who declares himself of any opinion or party.
When the holiness of the professors of religion is decayed
you may doubt the springing up of a new sect. *Bacon's Essays.*
2. One who publicly practises or teaches an art.
Professors in most sciences, are generally the worst qualified
to explain their meanings to those who are not of their
tribes. *Swift.*
3. One who is visibly religious.
Ordinary illiterate people, who were professors, that shew'd
a concern for religion, seem'd much conversant in St. Paul's
Epistles. *Lake.*
PROFESS'ORSHIP. *n. f.* [from professor.] The station or office
of a public teacher.
Dr. Prideaux succeeded him in the professorship, being then
elected bishop of Worcester, Sanderson succeeded him in the
regius professorship. *Wotton.*
To PROFFER.

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To PROFFER. *v. a.* [profero, Lat. profferer, Fr.]
1. To propose; to offer.
To them that covet such eye-glutting gain,
Proffer thy gifts, and fitter servants entertain. *Fairy Queen.*
None, among the choice and prime
Of those heav'n-warring champions, could be found
So hardy as to proffer, or accept
Alone, the dreadful voyage. *Milton's Par. Lost.*
Does Cato send this answer back to Cæsar,
For all his generous cares and proffer'd friendship? *Addis.*
2. To attempt.
PROFFER. *n. f.* [from the verb.]
1. Offer made; something proposed to acceptance.
Basilus, content to take that, since he could have no more,
allow'd her reasons, and took her proffer thankfully. *Sidney.*
Proffers, not took, reap thanks for their reward. *Shakespeare.*
The king
Great proffers sends of pardon and of grace,
If they would yield, and quietness embrace. *Daniel.*
He made a proffer to lay down his commission of command
in the army. *Clarendon.*
But these, nor all the proffers you can make,
Are worth the heifer which I set to stake. *Dryden.*
2. Effay; attempt.
It is done with time, and by little and little, and with
many essays and proffers. *Bacon's Essays.*
PROFFERER. *n. f.* [from proffer.] He that offers.
Maids, in modesty, say no, to that
Which they would have the profferer construe ay. *Shakespeare.*
He who always refuses, taxes the profferer with indiscre-
tion, and declares his assistance needless. *Collier.*
PROFFICIENCY. *n. f.* [from proficio, Lat.] Profit; advance.
PROFFICIENT. *n. f.* [from proficiens, Lat.] ment in any thing; improvement gained.
It is applied to intellectual acquisition.
Persons of ripe years, who flock'd into the church during
the three first centuries, were obliged to pass through instruc-
tions, and give account of their proficiency. *Addison.*
Some reflecting with too much satisfaction on their own
proficiencies, or presuming on their election by God, persuade
themselves into a careless security. *Rogers's Sermons.*
PROFFICIENT. *n. f.* [from proficiens, Lat.] One who has made ad-
vances in any study or business.
I am so good a proficient in one quarter of an hour, that I
can drink with any tinker in his own language. *Shakespeare.*
I am dispos'd to receive further light in this matter, from
those whom it will be no disparagement for much greater pro-
ficients than I to learn. *Boyle.*
Young deathlings were, by practice, made
Proficients in their father's trade. *Swift's Miscel.*
PROFFICUOUS. *adj.* [proficuous, Lat.] Advantageous; useful.
It is very proficuous, to take a good large dose. *Harvey.*
To future times
Proficuous, such a race of men produce,
As in the cause of virtue firm, may fix
Her throne inviolate. *Philips.*
PROFFICE. *n. f.* [proffice, Fr.] The side face; half face.
The painter will not take that side of the face, which has
some notorious blemish in it; but either draw it in profile, or
else shadow the more imperfect side. *Dryden.*
Till the end of the third century, I have not seen a Roman
emperor drawn with a full face: they always appear in profile,
which gives us the view of a head very majestic. *Addison.*
PROFIT. *n. f.* [profit, Fr.]
1. Gain; pecuniary advantage.
Thou must know,
'Tis not my profit that does lead mine honour. *Shakespeare.*
He thinks it highly just, that all rewards of trust, profit, or
dignity should be given only to those, whose principles direct
them to preserve the constitution. *Swift.*
2. Advantage; accession of good.
What profit is it for men now to live in heaviness, and
after death to look for punishment? *2 Esdr. vii. 47.*
Wisdom that is hid, and treasure that is hoarded up, what
profit is in them both? *Ecclesi. xi. 30.*
Say not what profit is there of my service; and what good
things shall I have hereafter. *Ecclesi. xi. 23.*
The king did not love the barren wars with Scotland,
though he made his profit of the noise of them. *Bacon.*
3. Improvement; advancement; proficiency.
To PROFIT. *v. a.* [profit, Fr.]
1. To benefit; to advantage.
Whereto might the strength of their hands profit me. *Job.*
Let it profit thee to have heard,
By terrible example, the reward
Of disobedience. *Milton's Par. Lost, b. vi.*
2. To improve; to advance.
'Tis a great means of profiting yourself, to copy diligently
excellent pieces and beautiful designs. *Dryden.*
To PROFIT. *v. n.*
1. To gain advantage.
The Romans, though possess'd of their ports, did not profit
much by trade. *Arbutnot on Coins.*

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2. To make improvement.
Meditate upon these things, give thyself wholly to them;
that thy profiting may appear to all. *1 Tim. iv. 15.*
She has profited so well already by your counsel, that she
can say her lesson. *Dryden's Spanish Fryar.*
3. To be of use or advantage.
Of times nothing profits more;
Than self-esteem ground'd on just and right. *Milton.*
What profited thy thoughts, and toils, and cares,
In vigour more confirm'd, and riper years? *Prior.*
PROFITABLE. *adj.* [profitable, Fr. from profit.]
1. Gainful; lucrative.
A pound of man's flesh, taken from a man;
Is not so estimable or profitable,
As flesh of muttons, beefs, or goats. *Shakespeare.*
The planting of hop-yards, sowing of wheat and rape-
seed, are found very profitable for the planters, in places apt
for them, and consequently profitable for the kingdom. *Bacon.*
2. Useful; advantageous.
To wail friends lost
Is not by much so wholesome, profitable,
As to rejoice at friends but newly found. *Shakespeare.*
Then Judas, thinking indeed that they would be profitable
in many things, granted them peace. *2 Mac. xii.*
What was so profitable to the empire, became fatal to the
emperor. *Arbutnot on Coins.*
PROFITABLENESS. *n. f.* [from profitable.]
1. Gainfulness.
2. Usefulness; advantageousness.
We will now briefly take notice of the profitableness of
plants for physick and food. *More's Antidote against Atheism.*
What shall be the just portion of those, whom neither the
condescension or kindness, nor wounds and sufferings of the
son of God could persuade, nor yet the excellency, easiness
and profitableness of his commands invite? *Calamy's Sermons.*
PROFITABLY. *adv.* [from profitable.]
1. Gainfully.
2. Advantageously; usefully.
You have had many opportunities to settle this reflection,
and have profitably employed them. *Wake.*
PROFITLESS. *adj.* [from profit.] Void of gain or advantage.
We must not think the Turk is so unskilful,
To leave that latest, which concerns him first;
Neglecting an attempt of ease and gain. *Shakespeare.*
To wake and wage a danger profitless.
PROFLIGATE. *adj.* [profligatus, Lat.] Abandoned; lost
to virtue and decency; shameless.
Time sensibly all things impairs;
Our fathers have been worse than theirs,
And we than ours; next age will see
A race more profligate than we,
With all the pains we take, have skill enough to be. *Resc.*
How far have we
Prophan'd thy heav'nly gift of poetry?
Made prostitute and profligate the muse,
Debas'd to each obscene and impious use,
Whose harmony was first ordain'd above
For tongues of angels, and for hymns of love. *Dryden.*
Though Phalaris his brazen bull were there,
And he would dictate what he'd have you swear,
Be not so profligate, but rather chafe
To guard your honour, and your life to lose. *Dryden.*
Melancholy objects and subjects will, at times, impress
the most profligate spirits. *Clarissa.*
PROFLIGATE. *n. f.* An abandoned shameless wretch.
It is pleasant to see a notorious profligate seized with a con-
cern for his religion, and converting his spleen into zeal. *Add.*
I have heard a profligate offer much stronger arguments
against paying his debts, than ever he was known to do against
christianity; because he happened to be closer press'd by the
bailiff than the parson. *Swift's Miscellanies.*
How could such a profligate as Antony, or a boy of
eighteen, like Octavius, ever dare to dream of giving the
law to such an empire and people. *Swift.*
To PROFLIGATE. *v. a.* [profligo, Lat.] To drive away. A
word borrowed from the Latin without alteration of the sense,
but not used.
Lavatories, to wash the temples, hands, wrists, and ju-
gulars, do potentially profligate and keep off the venom. *Harv.*
PROFLIGATELY. *adv.* [from profligate.] Shamelessly.
Most profligately false, with the strongest professions of
sincerity. *Swift's Miscellanies.*
PROFLIGATENESS. *n. f.* [from profligate.] The quality of
being profligate.
PROFLUENCE. *n. f.* [from profuans.] Progress; course.
In the profuence or proceedings of their fortunes, there was
much difference between them. *Wotton.*
PROFLUENT. *adj.* [from profuens, Lat.] Flowing forward.
Teach all nations what of him they learn'd,
And his salvation; them who shall believe
Baptizing in the profuent stream, the sign
Of washing them from guilt of sin. *Milton.*
PROFOUND.